

No Marksmen—So Bishops Stay Cocks

Wycombe Wanderers 1, Bishop Auckland 5.

THEY call Bishop Auckland the Cocks of the North and on a ground which resembled a farmyard more than a football pitch we were shown the reason why at Loakes Park on Friday when they outgunned a Wycombe team which seemed loathe to take its opportunities in this hard-fought floodlit friendly.

The pitch, cleared of the snow which had fallen earlier, was soft and slippery as the Bishops kicked off in front of 3,000 crowd.

Play centred around mid-field for most of the first-half as Bishops were playing the off-side trap and Wycombe's defence were holding well. Then Bishop's outside-right Gibson stormed through with a fine run and put the visitors one up in the 30th minute. Wycombe almost replied immediately with shots from Samuels and Beck which both went over the bar. It was exciting stuff and had the crowd roaring its approval in spite of the steady shower of rain.

More excitement came in the 40th minute when Merrick beat the goalkeeper but had his goal disallowed as it was off-side. Five minutes from half-time Wycombe's left-half Charlie Gale was brought down in a tough tackle and had to be carried off with a bad cut over his left eye. He was taken to High Wycombe hospital and had three stitches put in the wound. Thompson came on to join the 10 men just before the interval.

After the restart Wycombe came storming back with a goal from Bates. They looked the stronger side but their finishing power in front of goal let them down badly. Five minutes later Bishops got their second in the same style as the first, the scorer being inside-left, Redhead.

It was all Wycombe for the next 20 minutes, accurate passing from Bates gave the other forwards chance after chance to score and they all went close, but failed to put the ball into the net.

Bishops stayed calm under pressure, and their breakaway attacks looked dangerous. In the 30th minute it was Gibson who passed for centre-forward O'Connor to

make it three-one and from then on Wycombe were fighting a losing battle.

Bishop's fourth came in the 36th minute after another move from outside-right Gibson which was netted again by O'Connor. After four corners in succession Bishop Auckland scored their last goal through Gibson three minutes from time.